

# Department of Natural Resources Impact in Iron County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



## Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

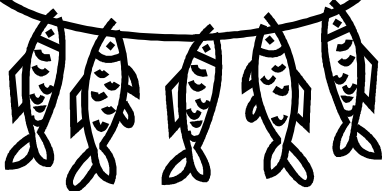
**763,384**



**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

**\$1.4 billion**



In Iron County, **11,307** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

## Investments in Recreation

**8,371 extended growth walleye** were stocked in Cedar and Echo Lakes and Lake of the Falls under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative** in the fall of 2014. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **126 citizens** became **hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile** certified in Iron County.

DNR granted a total of **\$26,801** to the Iron County Sheriff Department for ATV and snowmobile patrol activities.

Iron County has over **87,128 acres** of state owned lands open for public hunting and outdoor recreation.

## Community Partnerships

DNR recently invested **\$357,262 in state managed properties** in Iron County, including work on the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest and the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area.

Under Clean Boats, Clean Waters, over **1,400 boats** were inspected in 2014.

Iron County has **51 public water systems** that the DNR oversees to ensure they deliver safe water

The **Citizen-Based Monitoring Program** is an initiative that connects citizens and scientists together to monitor and evaluate Wisconsin's natural resources. Recent partnerships in Iron County include support to the School District of Mercer to train students and the general public in **marten ecology and monitoring, carnivore tracking and weather station and snow depth data collection.**

## Snapshot of grants in Iron County

A total of **\$1,411,911** was awarded in Iron County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities.** A snapshot of projects include: the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage aquatic invasive species project, Town of Mercer Northern Highland regional trail development, forest improvements and recreational trail maintenance.

**\*\*Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.**

## Contact Information

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## Forestry Activities

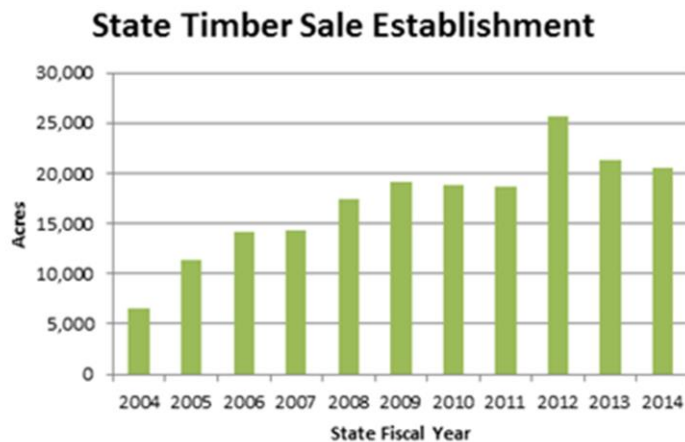
**Forestry is the largest employer in Iron County and produces the most economic output at \$81 million, providing \$18.5 million in added value to the county.**

Through the Forest Tax Law programs, (forest crop and MFL) 90,750 **acres** of private land in Iron County are being properly managed for timber, wildlife, water quality and a healthy environment. Additionally, **65,826 acres** of those privately owned lands are open for public access for hunting and recreation.

Since 2005, **over 64,489 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Iron County. The harvests provided more than **\$1.6 million in revenue** to the state.

In the last three fiscal years, **Iron County Forest has received over \$172,630 in grants** from the DNR for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands.

*The following graph represents the average acres of timber sales established on state lands in Wisconsin annually.*



## Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 100 contaminated properties**, assuring **long-term protection of public health and environment**.

DNR provided **\$30,711 in Brownfield Grants** over the past three years to place contaminated properties back into productive commercial or industrial use.

DNR provided **\$78,768 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses related to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

## Deer Management in Iron County

In 2014, Iron County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR worked with three landowners who have 270 acres enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 657 deer were registered in Iron County with 134 harvested during archery deer season and 523 harvested during the gun deer season.